Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for introducing selectable amounts of temporal dispersion into a signal, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) selectively directing an electromagnetic radiation beam to a predetermined optical path; and

   b) subsequently selectively directing the electromagnetic radiation beam to another predetermined optical path, constituting a subsequently selectively directed electromagnetic radiation beam;

   c) generating an angular separation of spectral components of the electromagnetic radiation beam, by the steps a) and b) in order to introduce the selectable amounts of temporal dispersion.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

   d) repeating step b) until a direction of propagation of the electromagnetic radiation beam is substantially parallel to an input direction.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

   d) redirecting the selectively directed electromagnetic radiation beam to a predetermined direction.

4. (Currently amended) A method for compensating angular dispersion comprising the step of:

   selectively diffracting an output electromagnetic radiation beam originating from a switching/routing optical system;

   rendering, after selective diffraction, a direction of propagation of the electromagnetic radiation output beam parallel to an input direction in order to compensate angular dispersion.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

propagating an input electromagnetic radiation beam through a steering diffracting element before entering the switching/routing optical system.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of:

selectively diffracting at least one crosstalk induced output electromagnetic radiation beam, said at least one crosstalk induced output electromagnetic radiation beam being present in at least one nonselected channel.

7-17. (Canceled)